(e) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The details of demand, allocation and lifting of edible oils for the PDS is respect of Andhra Pradesh for the last three years are as follows :

(Quantity in Tonnes)

| Year | Demand | Allocation | Lifting/Offtake |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 98000 | 56700 | 12139 |
| 2000-2001 | 2400 | 10000 | 3000 |
| 2001-2002 | NIL | NIL | NIL |

(d) and (e) The main reason cited by the States, including Andhra Pradesh, for the poor offtake of edible oils is the lower level of open market prices *vis-a-vis* the Central Issue Price (CIP) of edible oils. In the past the Central Government has reduced the CIP in order to encourage the Stales to improve their offtake performance. At present, however, there is no import or allocation of edible oils for the PDS.

**Dismantling of MSP**

189. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering the issue of dismantling the regime of MSP:

(b) if so. the reasons therefor and how long it would take to finalise the issue;

(c) whether the Ministry of Agriculture has been or would be taken into confidence: and

(d) whether Government would be introducing some shock absorbers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) No proposal regarding dismantling of MSP is at present under consideration of the Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

**Procurement of Foodgrains**

†190. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention lias been drawn towards a news-item captioned. 'Gehoon Ki Sarkari Kharid Band Hone Se Kisan Pareshan*. published in the Navbharat Times dated the 20th May. 2002:

(b) if so. the parts of the country from where official procurement of wheat is reported to have been stopped;

(c) whether Government are aware of non-procure'ment of paddy in West Bengal;

(d) if so. Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) the concrete arrangements made by Government to avoid such difficulties to the farmers in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes. Sir.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.